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ASHLAND, O., JAN. 6, 1886.

Good Resolves.

This is the season of the year when people, more than any other time, engage in forming good resolutions. There is something peculiarly appropriate in completing the old year with balanced accounts, and commencing the New Year with plans of personal improvement.

In whatever situation we are, the first and most important resolution to be made is, to resolve to carry out any good resolutions we may see that our habits suggest. There is a possibility of a person filling the ideal of a man, and it should be every one's study to approach it; and not his study only, but the direction of his acts also.

No one has ever yet reached the possible in the development of muscular strength, through constant and proper exercise and careful personal habits; so few have reached the limit in virtuous personal attributes and virtues, the crucifying of the passions and the removal of all other faults that may cling to him as dross does to the pure gold that is taken from the mine.

No one is so perfect that he has no place to seek for improvement, and no one is so abandoned that improvement is impossible to him.

Man may not be exactly the architect of his own fortune, yet very much depends upon his own conduct and works. When he has done all that lies in his power to do, to improve and make for himself a polished character, and a name that is a sign of virtue and true manhood, then it will be time to call to account his surroundings, and seek a field that will afford room for greater development.

Opportunity is a condition of success in many spheres of active life, and many jewels of human intellect have shed their lustre upon muddy surroundings and passed away unnoticed; yet there remains a sphere where every one may display its adornment and be appreciated by the worthy. The cultivation of the arts of peace, the exercise of humane tendencies and the religious sentiments and the suppression of baneful personal habits are nowhere impeded or prevented by the lack of opportunity; and, while they may not carry the actor upon the front wave of transcendent fame and human glory, they penetrate deeper, spread wider, and reach beyond the confines of the human eye and the capacity of the human ear, and are applauded where mortality is not.

So commence the New Year, not with a flourish of wordy

resolutions but with the determination that you will take one or more steps in the direction of self-improvement. One step to higher grounds each year will leave your first station far below in a quarter or half a life-time; and a good act put on interest will double itself much sooner than will a hundred dollars at six per cent. It is by constant growth, though slow, that the mammoth trees of the forest are produced; so by constant improvement the greatest and best men attained the high-place they occupied.

We wish all our readers and all others a happy and prosperous 1886.

The Late Term of Ashland College.

The term of Ashland College that closed last week has been self-sustaining. The Auditor reports that the receipts for the term and the expenses balance. This is very encouraging considering the great disadvantages under which the management toiled, and the hundreds of false reports that were circulated about the country to injure it. The next term promises much better than the last.

We are pleased to make this announcement, as we have believed all along that the Institution can be made, not only self-sustaining, but that it will be able to offer special inducements to those preparing for the ministry of the Brethren Church, and to the children of those who have come forward and helped to maintain it.

The Institution is now managed by self-sacrificing persons, and if the debt is taken from it, it will speedily arise to one of the most influential and best patronized colleges in this part of the country.

The Week of Prayer.

The Week of Prayer will be more generally observed throughout the country this year and by more churches than ever before.

It is very appropriate to engage in a week's service to our God and Provider as we enter upon the labors of a New Year, and if those devotions are filled with the zeal that is according to knowledge, a blessing will be bestowed upon the worshippers.

There is one safe-guard to be thrown about these services, also. There is a tendency dwelling in the human heart to drift into feasts and fasts and ceremonies, and worship God with the tongue more than with the heart, and to be more formal than truly pious. For this reason, as many as engage in the Week of Prayer service, let them worship God in spirit and in truth, and not to comply with an order that has been sent about the world by the Alliance, as a custom only.

From North Liberty, Ohio.

I arrived at North Liberty, in good time to participate in the program made out for Christmas evening.

It was spoken of as a Christmas Arch. This consisted of an arch over the rostrum, tastefully decorated with evergreens, flowers and mottoes. Perhaps this was the least of the features of the evening's entertainment. The recitations and music given by the members of the Sunday School cannot be too highly eulogized. The religious senti-

ment was a very prominent feature in all that was undertaken. I only wish that those who may object to these kinds of entertainments, could have been there, and we are sure that they would no longer object. Every one present went away well pleased and satisfied, especially the children for whose benefit it was made.

Presents were given in abundance. The grand lesson of gift-giving, which the season of the year teaches us, seems to have been well learned here.

Christmas gifts can trace their origin away back to the time when the wise men brought their gifts to the Infant Messiah.

The rough roads have so far, been somewhat against us, but we still work on in faith and hope.

No matter what our disappointment here may be, we are consoled with the thought that Bro. Mallott is down in the "Valley," and that from there, as from every place that he has visited lately, we shall have a report of glorious ingathering of souls.

EDWARD MASON.

Our Mission Work.

Owing to the urgent calls for help among our western brethren we felt a deep interest in our Convention.

We are well aware that the College debt is a burden upon our brotherhood, and must be met. We cannot afford to let the institution fall into other hands. Nor can we permit those noble brethren who have stood by so manfully, and hoped for the better so long, suffer such men cannot be over estimated by any people.

But are there not, many who feel as deeply the worth of souls, who have already done all they can or will for the college? And are willing to lend a helping hand in this good work.

Now a word direct to our objectors. Some have said save the money and give it to the missionaries and send them out to the master's work. The Convention is over and we are ready for your contributions. Our plan is formulated, and if you forward your money we feel assured that work will be done.

What we have done we have done for our State. The representatives present, were all from Kans. and we took for granted that Mo. and Neb. did not feel they needed any mission arrangements.

We hope our brethren will take no offense that we have omitted them. We have work enough in Kans. and fully enough for us to provide for under the pressure of the times.

Bro. J. W. Beer objected on account of expense and claimed that the needs were "a home awakening." We have kindly excused all such, and as Bro. Beer has had quite an awakening at home and now we will await the furtherance of the needful. We admit that money is needed and money must be forthcoming if our missionary takes the field. We have asked but a small amount. One dollar can easily be raised, if not by each some can easily pay for several who are not able. Here is a special opportunity for aiding the mission cause, and assisting your poor brother or sister in aiding in the Lord's cause. Kans. is destined to be if proper-

ly husbanded a strong hold of the "Brethren Church" and my dear brethren do not turn a deaf ear, to the call, now made for assistance. A few hundred dollars judiciously expended in assisting a live warm missionary at this time will be the means of doing an immense amount of good. We have chosen our dear Bro. W. J. H. Bauman as our representative and we feel that if the necessary funds are raised and forwarded, our brother will do us a good work. But do not let us forget, that our prayers, as well as our means, are needed in order that the work may be blest. "A Paul may plant, and Apollos, water but the increase is of the Lord." But the Lord will not bless any work without our hearts are in it. Pray the Lord to bless our cause, is our humble prayer.

A. J. HIXSON.

Parsons, Kans.

Itinerancy.

This is a subject of vast importance to the ministers of the church. Bro. Spanogle's article in no 49. B. E., called forth the thoughts I shall pen in this article, hoping it may stir up the ministry to a sense of activity; I am aware that some object to an itinerant ministry, not because it is not useful, but because it requires great sacrifice and self-denial to ministry and laymember. What is the object of the ministry? We answer, to *save men*. Benevolence not selfishness should actuate in the ministry as well as in all religion. We are bound to establish and support that system which is most efficient in securing the objects of the ministry.

Nearly every objection brought against the itinerancy borders on the principle of selfishness. How often do we hear the expression, "we have a good minister and we want to keep him." Now is he your minister? or is he God's minister to the world, and belongs to the world? If you are favored with an able and successful minister, why not be willing others should have the same privilege. Ministers often object and say, "I receive a good support and do not wish to change location."—How perfectly selfish,—or "it is so unpleasant to move so often." Was it a pleasant task for the Savior to leave the courts of heaven and come to earth suffer and die to fulfill His ministry? Some seem to think that itinerancy might not be Scriptural. Christ was an itinerant *He went about doing good*. Mathew says, "He went about all Galilee, teaching in their Synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom." And when he called Peter and Andrew, he said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" and they did so. When he sent out the twelve, He said, "*As ye go, preach, saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" The history of the apostles is an evidence of their itinerating character. The travels of St Paul are truly proverbial. Three years is the longest time we have any account of his ever stopping in one place. It is evident from the scriptures that the apostles were itinerant ministers.

That the itinerant system should be inaugurated in the Brethren Church is evident from the following considerations. Men are differently constituted; and they differ more mentally and

morally than they do physically. Some have logical, reasoning minds, and no preaching interests or benefits them but the argumentative. Let J. W. Beer reason on righteousness, temperance and a judgment to come and their minds are interested and their hearts moved. Others seem never to reason logically or to take any interest in such preaching. They want plain, pointed matter-of-fact preaching, that comes warm from the heart and with power. Let S. H. Bashor utter his thunder and they are pleased and profited. Others are charmed by the eloquent strains of H. R. Holsinger. Others again have a mind very susceptible to the plaintive and sympathetic. With them it is all the same whether Beer reasons, Bashor thunders, or Holsinger charms: but let R. F. Mallott pour fourth his pathos and they cry, "I yield I come I can hold out no more;" while to others it would be like pouring water on a rock. It might wear it, but never break it. Nothing but the fire of W. L. Spanogle can do it.

The Lord chooses his minister in view of these facts. Hence we find men with gifts and grades of talent adapted to all the different minds in the world. We find many or few of all these classes in every congregation and community, consequently in every congregation the itinerancy is perfectly adapted to meet this state of things. This year you may have as your minister a J. W. Beer with his logical sermons. He is followed by S. H. Bashor who utters his thunders in your ears. He is followed by an eloquent H. R. Holsinger, a pathetic R. F. Mallott, an enthusiastic W. L. Spanogle, or a weeping R. Z. Replogle; and so all the different classes are blessed with a minister whose gift is adapted to their peculiar character. To say that every minister should possess all these gifts, is to say that they should be more perfect than the apostles were.

That these are facts and not mere speculations, is evident from the history of the church in all ages. Where do we find as frequent revivals of religion as are found in the itinerant system of ministers. The majority of revivals among a settled ministry have been through the labors of itinerating evangelists. Hence we should establish that system which is best adapted to the wants of the people.

J. W. SMOUSE.

Smicksburg, Pa.

Wherever, large estates have been accumulated the decline of the nation has followed.

Good children are the hardest crop to raise; it takes a kind home and two steady heads.

It is worth a thousand pounds a year to have the art of looking on the bright side of things

Nature has sometimes made a fool, but a coxcomb is always of man's own making.

Mystery is another name for ignorance: if we were omniscient, all would be perfectly plain.

The speaker gives back to his hearers in a rain what he had received from them in a mist.

Let no man wax pale because of opposition. Opposition is what he wants and must have.